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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,519	08/29/2001	Xiaoming Gu	280/50357	5214

7590 08/03/2004

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300

EXAMINER

MARMOR, CHARLES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3681

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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072904

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

In response to applicant's telephone inquiry of July 28, 2004 regarding the last Office action, the following corrective action is taken.  
A shortened statutory period for reply of is set to expire TWO (2) MONTHS from the mailing date of this letter.  
A corrected copy of pages 4-5 of the last Office Action is enclosed.

  
Richard M. Lorence  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3681

Art Unit: 3681

*rmc*  
*7/29/04*

Savoyard discloses all the limitations of claim 4, but lacks any specific disclosure of the separator plates being coated. Yesnik (Abstract) discloses separator plates being coated Fig. 2 (48) to provide an increased coefficient of friction without increasing the wear. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this invention to modify the separator plate of <sup>Savoyard</sup>~~Fujieka~~ such that it is coated, in view of Yesnik, for the purpose of providing an increased coefficient of friction without increasing wear.

8. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savoyard et al. '944 in view of Ueno et al. JP 405231443A.

*rmc*  
*7/29/04*

Savoyard discloses all the limitations of claim 5, but lacks any specific disclosure of the separator plates being machined. Ueno et al. teaches machining separator plates in a wet multiple disk clutch to improve durability (Constitution). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the separator plates of <sup>Savoyard</sup>~~Bauer~~ such that they are machined, in view of Ueno, to improve the durability of the separator plates and the wet multiple disk clutch.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savoyard et al. '944 in view of Avers '035.

Savoyard discloses all the limitations of claim 6, but lacks any specific teaching of the thickness of the groove-free separator plates between .5 and 1.52 mm. Avers discloses a clutch with a separator plate (24a, 24b) having a thickness between .01 and .09 inches - equivalent to .254 mm and 2.286 mm (abstract) -. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the

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separator plates of <sup>Savoyard</sup>~~Bauer~~ such that the thickness is between .5 and 1.52 mm, in view of Avers, to reduce noise and vibration in the clutch.

**Response to Arguments**

10. Applicant's arguments with have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**Conclusion**

*7/29/04*  
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to <sup>Richard M. Lorence</sup>~~Eric M. Williams~~ whose telephone number is 703-<sup>308</sup>~~305~~-3062. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A Marmor can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*EMW*  
EMW

*6/10/04*  
Richard M. Lorence  
Primary Examiner  
AU 3681